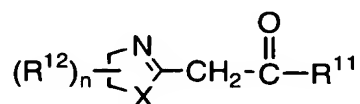


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording material comprising, on a support, a recording layer containing a diazo compound and an azolinyl acetic acid derivative as a coupler which reacts with the diazo compound to form a color.

2. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the azolinyl acetic acid derivative is a compound represented by the following general formula (1):

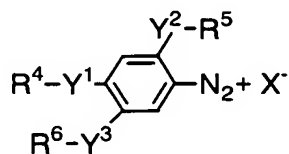
General formula (1)



wherein X represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^{11} represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, $-OR^{13}$ or $-NR^{14}R^{15}$; R^{12} represents a substituent; R^{13} represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; R^{14} and R^{15} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; n represents an integer from 0 to 4; and when n is an integer of 2 or greater, two or more R^{12} s may be linked with each other to form a ring.

3. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the diazo compound is a diazonium salt represented by the following general formula (2):

General formula (2)

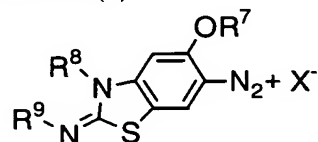


wherein R^4 and R^6 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group or an acyl group, and may be linked with each other to form a ring;

R^5 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an acyl group or a heterocyclic group; Y^1 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or an amino group; Y^2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a single bond; Y^3 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a hydrogen atom, provided that when Y^3 is a hydrogen atom, R^6 is not present; and X^- represents an anion.

4. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the diazo compound is a diazonium compound represented by the following general formula (3):

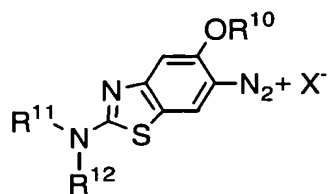
General formula (3)



wherein R^7 and R^8 each independently represents an alkyl group or an aryl group; R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; and X^- represents an anion.

5. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the diazo compound is a diazonium compound represented by the following general formula (4):

General formula (4)



wherein R^{10} , R^{11} and R^{12} each independently represents an alkyl group or an aryl group; R^{11} and R^{12} may be linked with each other to form a ring; and X^- represents an anion.

6. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the diazo compound

is encapsuled in a microcapsule.

7. The recording material according to claim 6, wherein the microcapsule has a microcapsule wall made from at least one polymer selected from polyurethane or polyurea.

8. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the coupler is contained in the recording layer in an amount of 0.2 to 8 moles per 1 mole of the diazo compound.

9. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the diazo compound is contained in the recording layer in an amount of 0.02 to 3g/m².

10. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer further contains an organic base.

11. The recording material according to claim 10, wherein the organic base is used in an amount of 0.1 to 30 parts by mass per 1 part by mass of the diazo compound.

12. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer further contains a color forming auxiliary.

13. The recording material according to claim 12, wherein the color forming auxiliary is a heat melting substance.

14. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer further contains an antioxidant.

15. The recording material according to claim 14, wherein the antioxidant is added in an amount of 0.05 to 100 parts by mass per 1 part by mass of the diazo compound.

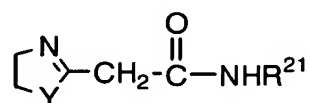
16. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer further contains a free radical generating agent.

17. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer further contains a vinyl monomer.

18. The recording material according to claim 1, wherein the recording layer is a thermal recording layer.

19. An azolinyl acetic acid derivative represented by the following general formula (1a):

General formula (1a)



wherein Y represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; and R²¹ represents an alkyl group or an aryl group.